

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS

State Dept. review completed



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING LAYERS.

TUESDAY August 24th, 1948.

Arab Affairs.

The arrival of Iraqi P.M. Al Pachachi.

Unification of Arab commands.

Coordination of Arab policy at the U.N.

Assembly meeting.

The arrival in Egypt of H.E. Muzahim Al Pachachi, Prime Minister of Iraq, is treated as top political story of the day. Al Ahram reports that the unification of the Iraqi and Arab Legion commands will result in the amalgamation of the Iraqi and Transjordanian armies with an Iraqi officer as G.O.C. in C. King Abdullah and Regent Abdulilah have sent Prime Minister Al Pachachi to Egypt to discuss with Prime Minister Nokrashi Pasha the possibility of unifying all Arab commands. "All the Arab countries are agreed that the unification of Arab commands is absolutely necessary for the success of the Arab military campaign", comments Al Ahram which adds: "It is understood that the Iraqi Prime Minister will also inform Nokrashi Pasha of the decisions taken at the big conference which took place recently at Amman concerning the desire of the Arab people to save Palestine from Zionist danger and force the Jews to evacuate the places which they occupy at present. The Arab governments fully appreciate this Arab desire and would like to carry it out, had it not been for the absence of certain things which are necessary for a military campaign. This matter occupies the attention of the Arab countries at present".

Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun expresses in a subtle way the hope that should the Arab commands be unified Egypt would continue to be the leader of the Arab countries. It says that the unification of the Iraqi and Arab Legion commands may be a prelude to the unification of all the Arab commands and concludes with the words: "H.E. Muzahim Al Pachachi is one of the most enthusiastic Arab leaders about Egypt's political and military efforts for the Palestinian cause. He is also very enthusiastic about Egypt retaining her leadership of the Arab countries."

Al Misri quotes Azzam Pasha as saying to the press that the Political Committee will meet in the first week of September and that Egypt and other Arab countries will impose

- 2 -

TUESDAY August 24th, 1948.

special temporary tax for the period of six months on certain goods, and will spend the money thus collected on the Arab refugees.

Commenting on the unification of the Iraqi and Arab Legion commands, Al Misri writes: "No doubt all the Arabs have welcomed the news concerning the unification of the Iraqi and Transjordanian commands. No doubt also that they welcomed the speed with which this action was taken. This step will lead to firm cooperation among the Arab military forces which entered Palestine to restore peace to it and destroy the elements of evil.

"Iraq is very enthusiastic about the Arab cause and the present Iraqi Prime Minister is famous for his integrity and patriotism. We fully appreciate the importance of the present talks between Al Pachachi and Nokrashi and hope that they will be crowned with success".

Iraqi Premier denies Akhbar El Yom's story (See Review August 21st).

Al Ahram publishes the following story: Amman August 23 (A.N.A.) - A Cairo Press report from Beirut to the effect that the Iraqi Government had asked the British Government to urge British officers in the Arab Legion to resign or take prolonged leave was categorically denied by Muzahim el-Pachachy, Iraqi Prime Minister, in an interview with the A.N.A. He also dismissed the suggestion from the same source that the request had been prompted by "King Abdullah's acceptance of the idea that the command of Arab Legion should be taken over by the Iraqi Army".

He added that the report that a memorandum on this matter had been submitted to the British Ambassador to Baghdad was without any foundation whatever, that no memorandum on the subject had been submitted to anyone, and that the subject had not even been discussed.

A further report that the Iraqi Government had suggested a payment of £2,000,000 to the Arab Legion (in place of Britain's subsidy) and that King Abdullah had consented to the Arab Legion being placed under the Iraqi command was rejected.

Muzahim el-Pachachy added: "What has actually happened is this; the Commands of the Iraqi and Transjordanian Armies have been unified under the Iraqi General Command, whose orders will be executed by Field Commands whether Transjordanian or Iraqi".

In conclusion the Prime Minister declared: "I confidently hope that success will be achieved by unifying our two Commands and that eventually all Arab Armies will be unified under one general Command".

The Union of South Africa supports the Arab cause. Malan writes to Arab governments.

Al Ahram writes: "The Chargé d'Affaires at the Cairo Legation of the Union of South Africa sent to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs clippings from his country's newspapers concerning the Palestinian question. The

- 3 -

TUESDAY August 24th, 1948.

newspapers in question supported the Arabs against the Zionists and abhorred the decision taken by Marshall Smuts concerning his government's recognition of the alleged Zionist state. The newspapers said that the peoples of South Africa punished Smuts by voting against him at the elections.

"Mr Malan, the Present Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa sent a letter to the responsible quarters in which he expressed his support for the Arab cause in Palestine".

U.S. Minister reporting on refugees.

Al Ahram prints the following story: Damascus August 23 (A.N.A.) - James High Keeley, U.S. Minister to Damascus, is to report to the State Department, Washington, on the conditions in which refugees are living. Yesterday he visited one camp in Syria just at a time when a new batch were arriving from Palestine. He expressed consternation at their poverty and misery. He will visit other camps during the week.

Rose El Yussuf advocates resumption of war.

Under the headline: "A gloved hand", Rose El Yussuf, the pro-government weekly, writes: "The Palestinian problem is solved, the Jews have surrendered, Tel Aviv has been captured, and we can now rest our weary bodies on soft mattresses and throw our boots in the face of Al Sayed Truman and Al Sayed Stalin. The Palestinian problem is solved and we can now exchange accusations and insults, spit in each others' faces, and talk about other people's private affairs."

"No Ye good honest people! No Ye saviours of Islam and Arabism! Wake up from your dream!. The Palestinian question has not yet been solved and will never be solved if we go on sleeping and dreaming while the thief is stealing our home."

"Time is no longer on our side. The nations of the world are against us. What are we waiting for? What are we arguing about? Do we expect to score victory at the hands of Count Bernadotte? Or do we expect the United Nations Assembly to support us at its coming session? Was not Count Bernadotte the man who recognized Israel in his first proposal? Was not the U.N. Assembly the organisation which recommended partition? What are we waiting for when we know beforehand that the solution acceptable to the Jews will be unacceptable to the Arabs?"

"We refused to conduct direct negotiations with the Jews because we know that this would be tantamount to our recognition of Israel. Is there any practical difference between direct and indirect negotiations? Of course not. Direct negotiations would mean that we extend our bare hand

- 4 -

TUESDAY August 24th, 1948.

to the Jews and indirect negotiations that we extend our gloved hand instead.

"Our enemy is mean. We should expect no decency from him and we must speak to him in the language he understands, the language of guns".

Alleged report by Mr Wadsworth
to the State Department.

Rose El Yussuf writes: "Mr George Wadsworth, America's Minister in Turkey, sent a secret memorandum to the American government in which he said: "The Turkish official circles do not hide their concern about the exaggerated ambitions of the Zionists and the White House's support for those ambitions... a support which is not based on proper understanding of the situation in the Middle East or on proper appreciation of what may happen as the result of continued unrest in this area.

"The American Minister concluded his memorandum by reporting the text of the conversation he had with the Turkish President in which the President stated that Turkey could not remain neutral for ever about the dispute which is taking place at her southern borders.

"Mr Wadsworth also sent with the memorandum the text of the speech made by Ben Gurion in which he said: "We are not afraid to declare now that we shall not be satisfied with the borders of our state as specified by the partition plan. We aim at establishing a Jewish state which comprises the whole of Palestine as well as Transjordan".

"Mr Wadsworth commented on the speech by saying that the Prime Minister of the alleged government of Israel has eclipsed the Duce in his statements and speeches.

"Mr Wadsworth finally asked his government to revise its attitude towards the Arabs, in case the wise leaders among the Arabs who have been so far very patient, lose their control over the Arab inhabitants of the Middle East".

Hindustan contributes 100,000
rupees for the welfare of the Arab
refugees. Al Ikhwan hits at Hindustan,
calls it a killer.

Rose El Yussuf reports that the Hindustani government has contributed 100,000 rupees for the welfare of the Palestinian Arab refugees. The papers reported yesterday, however, that the representative of the government of the state of Hyderabad in Pakistan sent a letter to Azzam Pasha stating that his government had decided to contribute one million rupees for the Palestinian Arabs but could not forward the

- 5 -

TUESDAY August 24th, 1948.

money because of the currency restrictions imposed by Hindustan.

Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun comments on the story by saying that Hindustan has imposed a blockade on the Islamic state of Hyderabad in order to acquire its gold in the end and that Hindustan is behaving like a killer or a highwayman. "Hindustan is not only trying to murder Hyderabad, but also the poor Arab refugees", says Roso El Yussuf.

The Egyptian government takes legal action against five companies.

Roso El Yussuf reports that the Egyptian authorities have prosecuted five companies because of alleged violation of the Companies law. The weekly does not give the names of the companies in question.
